

Message Text

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FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS BEIRUT CAIRO KUWAIT
TEHRAN TEL AVIV TRIPOLI DHAHRAN LONDON PARIS FROM JIDDA
20 APR 73 REPEATED:

QUOTE JIDDA 1615

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG PFOR SA

SUBJ: LOCAL PRESS: YAMANI STATEMENT & PRESIDENT' S OIL MESSAGE

1. ON APRIL 20 UNDER HEADLINE " IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY ZAK
YAMANI IN WASHINGTON" LEADING DAILY AL- MEDINA STATE IN SUB- HEADINGS
(A) AMERICA MUST CHANGE ITS POSITION TOWARD CRISIS OF MIDDLE EAST
TO ASSURE AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM, (B) AN IN-
CREASE IN SAUDI PETROLEUM PRODUCTION CURRENTLY FAVORS INTERESTS
OF CONSUMER NATIONS, AND (C) KINGDOM CURRENTLY RECEIVING
FINANCIAL REVENUES FROM PETROLEUM WHICH IN FACT EXCEED ABSORPTIVE
CAPACITY OF ITS ECONOMY.

2. PARTIAL TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS " HE SHAIKH AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI,
MINISTER OF PETROLEUM STATED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW TO THE
WASHINGTON POST THAT THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS
INFORMED THE UNITED STATES THAT IT SHALL NOT INCREASE
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ITS PETROLEUM PRODUCTION UNLESS WAHSINGTON CHANGES ITS POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MINISTER CLARIFIED THIS BY ADDING THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD ISRAEL. HE ADDED: THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA RECEIVES CASH REVENUES FROM PETROLEUM THAT EXCEED WHAT ITS ECONOMY CAN ABSORB, AND WERE HIS COUNTRY ONLY TO CONSIDER ITS SELF- INTEREST, IT WOULD BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO INCREASE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION -- DESPITE PLANS FOR SUCH AN INCREASE. THE MINISTER ADDED HOWEVER, THAT HIS COUNTRY' S COMMITMENT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION FROM 7.2 MILLION BARRELS DAILY -- THE CURRENT FIGURE -- TO 20 MILLION B/ D IN THE 1980' S IS STILL POSSIBLE PROVIDED THAT THE UNITED STATES MAKES POSSIBLE A PROPITIOUS POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE."

3. AL- MEDINA ADDS DEPT SPOKESMAN CHARLES BRAY ASKED BY NEWSMEN WHETHER USG WOULD DEFINITELY CHANGE ITS POSITION TOWARD ISRAEL BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY OF A SHORTAGE OF PETROLEUM. PAPER REMARKS THAT BRAY DID NOT ADDRESS SELF TO THIS QUESTION BUT INSTEAD SPOKE OF US DESIRE TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OF COOPERATION ON NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY; PAPER THEN NOTES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON REFRAINED FROM RAISING PROBLEM OF OIL PRODUCING STATES (IN HIS REPORT) AND THAT PRESIDENT SAID " IF SOME FEW PROBLEMS ARISE, THEY POSE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO DISCUSS MEANS OF REALIZING OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS BY MEANS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION INSTEAD OF DESTRUCTIVE COMPETITION AND DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION."

COMMENT: BECAUSE OF CLOSENESS OF AL- MEDINA' S EDITOR, MUHAMMAD SALLAH AL- DIN TO MIN PET YAMANI, AND IMPORTANCE OF AL- MEDINA ITSELF, STORY CARRIES MORE OFFICIAL WEIGHT THAN IF IT HAD APPEARED IN LESSER NEWSPAPER.
THACHER UNQUOTE PORTER

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